THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts regional exploration of coal (besides other minerals) on regular basis to identify new coal resources in the country. Besides, Ministry of Coal also undertakes Promotional (regional) exploration of coal through a plan scheme of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDIL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL), for supplementing and augmenting the efforts of GSI.

(b) GSI is conducting exploration of coal from pre-independence period under its own programme of mineral exploration. Besides, MECL, GSI and CMPDIL are also undertaking regional exploration of coal resources under the Central Sector Scheme of Promotional Exploration. The Central PSUs (CMPDIL/SCCL), some State Govts. The Scheme of Promotional Exploration and some allocattees of Captive Mining blocks take up detailed exploration. Thereafter, to upgrade the confidence level of coal resources estimated through regional exploration.

Combining the efforts of GSI, MECL, CMPDIL, SCCL and State Govts. etc. (regional/detailed exploration), the total inventory of Geological Resources of coal in India (as per GSI) as on 1.4.09 stands at 267.21 Billion Tonnes.

(c) Reserves falling in potential part of regionally explored area are taken up for detailed exploration, after which Geological Reports and mine feasibility studies/Project Reports are prepared. The commercial production commences only after Mine Plan/Project Reports are approved. This activity takes a considerable amount of time.

(d) The target for production of coal for the current year is 532.33 Mt.

Coal reserve in Andal, West Bengal

†*54.SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that is a coal reserve of more than twenty thousand lakh tonnes in Andal, West Bengal;

(b) whether the quality of this coal has been examined by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an air port is proposed to be constructed on the above land; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the work of coal mining would be carried out in such a situation?

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 1400 million tonnes of coal reserves are present in Andal area in West Bengal as per the regional exploration done by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the area. The quality of coal has been determined by the GSI.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An Airport has been proposed to be constructed on this area. If the Airport is constructed, coal mining will not be done below the proposed Airport and some adjoining area for safety reasons.

Cases of dowry death and harassment of women

†55. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any decrease in the number of incidents of deaths and harassment of married women in dowry related cases;

(b) the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the new legislation enacted to stop domestic violence has been able to protect women against domestic violence and harassment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during one year before and one year after its enforcement, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) and (b) The cases of dowry death as well as cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 have registered an increasing trend. The State/UT-wise details of cases of dowry death (Section 304B IPC) registered during 2005-2007 are enclosed at Statement-I (See below). Similar details in respect of Dowry Prohibition Act are enclosed at Statement-II (See below).

(c) and (d) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is a civil law aimed at protecting various rights of women facing domestic violence. The law has been in force for 3 years. During this period, the number of cases registered under it have registered an increasing trend indicating that more and more victims have sought relief under this law. The details of cases registered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to S.Q. No. 44 Part (a) to (e)].

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.